

## Minor notices.

THE SECOND BULLETIN of the U. S. Division of Vegetable Pathology<sup>1</sup> is devoted to a detailed preliminary report upon the California vine disease, which appeared in sufficient amount to attract attention in 1884 and 1885. Since then its spread has been rapid until 20,000 to 25,000 acres of vineyards in S. California have been devastated. The cause of the disease has not yet been discovered. This report gives an account of the incubation and spread of the disease; its characteristics and its relation to various supposed causes. It seems most nearly related to *rougeot* and *folletage*.

PROFESSOR L. H. PAMMEL has distributed copies of an elaborately illustrated lecture on the "Pollination of Flowers"<sup>2</sup> delivered at the January meeting of the Iowa Horticultural Society. The collation of useful illustrations (though these are wretchedly printed) and the most important literature bearing on this subject makes the pamphlet a very useful one to teachers. Two other short papers, "Cross and self-fertilization in plants" and "The effects of cross-fertilization in plants" are also included in the pamphlet.

## OPEN LETTERS.

## The Botanical Congress.

Since opinions are asked regarding an American Botanical Congress at Madison next year, I give mine briefly and categorically as follows:

1. By all means we must have a congress. Foreign botanists are expecting it, the time is ripe for it, and properly arranged, I believe that we will be able to secure a large and representative foreign delegation.

2. The success of the congress will depend *very largely* on the selection of a *live* general manager or secretary who will not be trammelled in his action by too much *a priori* machinery. He must be given power to act, if necessary, promptly *because* independently.

3. Action should be taken at once to secure a meeting of the International Committee on Nomenclature appointed at Genoa, in connection with next year's congress.

4. A program containing a *few* topics of general interest to botanists throughout the world should be announced at an early date. Now that nomenclature is practically settled, we are in a position to appreciate the fact that there are other matters of more importance, some of which may well be discussed in such a presence.

<sup>1</sup>Washington: Gov. Printing Office: 1892. 8°. pp. 222. pl. xxv. chart 2.

<sup>2</sup>Apparently privately printed. pp. 57. figs 45.



5. The date should be pushed to the very last of August or the first week in September in order to accommodate European botanists whose university duties would prevent attendance earlier.

6. A free excursion of reasonable length (say as far as Lake Superior) ought to be arranged for; to this, arrangements should be added whereby foreign delegates could secure special rates to our great attractions in the far west should they care to make such extended excursions.—LUCIEN M. UNDERWOOD, *Greencastle, Ind.*

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## NEWS AND NOTES.

MR. W. H. NORRIS describes in the *American Naturalist* for August the development of the ovule of *Grindelia squarrosa*.

MR. D. T. MACDOUGAL is arranging a collecting trip to Mexico. He will start early in January. Those desiring plants from this region can address him regarding the matter at LaFayette, Ind.

A NEW EDITION of Koch's "Synopsis Floræ Germaniæ" is to be published under the editorship of Prof. P. Ascherson. The Prussian Academy of Sciences has voted him 2,000 marks to carry on the work.

THE BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT in the Bohemian University at Prague has been strengthened by the appointment of Dr. A. Hansgirg, until now lecturer in the same institution, and Dr. R. von Wettstein, of Vienna, to professorships.

MR. F. V. COVILLE gives an interesting account of the Panamint Indians of California (*Am. Anthropol.* v. 351), in which there is much of botanical interest. The question as to what these desert Indians can find in the way of vegetable food is answered by a surprisingly long list of plants whose seeds are chiefly used.

IN THE LAST number of *Hedwigia* (heft 4, 1892) Dr. C. Warnstorf describes five new species of Sphagnum: *S. Labradorensis* of the ACUTIFOLIA, from Labrador; *S. dasyphyllum* of the CUSPIDATA from Connecticut; *S. Orlandense* from Florida; *S. Mohrianum* and *S. Mobilense* from Alabama, the three latter of the SUBSECUNDA.

M. HENRY DOULIOT, preparator at the Museum of Natural History at Paris, is dead at the age of 38, from a disease contracted during a scientific expedition. M. Douliot had already acquired a wide reputation through his researches in the histology of the higher plants. His work has been largely in conjunction with M. Van Tieghem.

IN THE November GAZETTE, (p. 341) we inadvertently omitted mention of the fact that the Department of Agriculture was the body that Dr. Vasey represented at Genoa, in addition to the Smithsonian Institute. It is but just that this correction should be made since the Department was the financial authority for the mission.—L. M. UNDERWOOD.